

From: Ben Pearre
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 5:25pm
Subject: Bad Microsoft! Punishment: extend your monopoly!

It seems an odd kind of justice to "punish" Microsoft by allowing it to extend its monopoly into schools. Any settlement that involves Microsoft contributing software is no punishment at all, but something that would help Microsoft regardless. If Microsoft is to pay \$1.1 billion, \$0.9 billion in software (valued however Microsoft chooses to value it, see Monopoly), then Microsoft is actually paying \$0.2 billion to extend its stranglehold on the minds of the population.

Remember, the cost for Microsoft to "donate" 0.9 billion dollars' worth of software is essentially nothing. How much do you think your copy of Windows costs Microsoft to produce? A few cents.

If Microsoft is to give money to schools as a punishment for its crimes, it should be a punishment, not a victory. Perhaps Microsoft could give the schools \$1.1 billion worth of hardware that works with Linux?

Sincerely,
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